

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 PM-04

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 L-03 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 /062 W
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O 121624Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON NIACT IMMEDIATE 2375

IFO RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE IMMEDIATE 0392

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAMA 0948

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE STATUS

REF : MANAMA 909

1. LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 12 FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED ME IN AND
HANDED ME LETTER INFORMING US OF GOB'S DECISION TO SEE MIDDLE
EAST FORCE PRESENCE TERMINATED BY JUNE 30, 1977. HE DID SO WITH
NO APPARENT JOY.

2. I EXPLAINED THAT WASHINGTON REVIEW OF THIS PROBLEM STILL
UNDERWAY AND THAT I WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON OFFICIAL USG
REACTION. I NOTED THAT HE WAS AWARE OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT
LIMITING FUTURE FLEXIBILITY BY PUTTING TERMINATION DATE

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IN WRITING ALTHOUGH WE WERE APPRECIATIVE OF GOB'S COURTESY OF

GIVING US ADVANCE WARNING OF ITS THINKING. I ACCEPTED LETTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR GOB'S WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS IT FIRST WITH US IN DRAFT AND TO DELAY SOMEWHAT FORMAL DELIVERY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE THROUGH NOON LOCAL TIME AUGUST 13 IF THERE WERE ANY IMMEDIATE AND URGENT OFFICIAL USG REACTION, BUT THAT HE SAW NO REASON WHY THE MATTER COULD NOT BE LAID ASIDE UNTIL HIS RETURN FROM UNGA IN SEPTEMBER. HE NOTED THAT LETTER WAS CONFIDENTIAL AND THAT HE WANTED TO WORK OUT SOME MUTUALLY AGREED FORMULA FOR MAKING DECISION KNOWN. HE WOULD OF COURSE BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS WHILE AT UNGA IF USG PREFERRED, BUT IT COULD WAIT UNTIL HIS RETURN TO BAHRAIN.

4. HE THEN PAID WHAT SOUNDED TODAY VERY MUCH LIKE LIP SERVICE TO GOB'S WILLINGNESS TO REVIEW THIS DECISION IN THE COMING YEAR SHOULD THE SITUATION CHANGE SO THAT MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE WAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED BY BAHRAIN'S NEIGHBORS AND HENCE COULD BE JUSTIFIED IN AREA AS TRULY A "GULF PRESENCE" AND NOT JUST FOCUSED ON BAHRAIN. HE COMPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT THE PRIVATE BARBS GOB HAD ENDURED FROM KUWAIT AND QATAR AND THE EXPOSURE IT FACED THROUGH THE SHAH'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS. (COMMENT: I GOT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT EXPECT THE "SITUATION TO CHANGE" IN THE COMING YEAR. END COMMENT.)

5. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN TALKED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF GOB'S HOPE THAT ITS RELATIONS WITH U.S. WOULD NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY ITS DECISION AND THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WOULD EXPAND IN A MANNER SERVING BOTH COUNTRIES INTERESTS. HE EMPHASIZED CONVICTION THAT NEEDED U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO ORDERLY PROGRESS OF GULF AREA WOULD BE BEST ACHIEVED IN THE FUTURE THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL, BUSINESS, AND CULTURAL PRESENCE (AND MIDDLE EAST PEACE) RATHER THAN BY A MILITARY PRESENCE "OF NO MILITARY CREDIBILITY" WHICH APPEARED IN AREA AS A "RELIC OF THE PAST." HE URGED THAT USG APPRECIATE THAT GOB'S DECISION HAD BEEN CAREFULLY AND PAINFULLY REACHED IN THE LIGHT OF FRIENDSHIP FOR THE U.S. AND IT WAS NOT THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT REACTION OF "A FEW CRAZY ARABS IRRITATED ABOUT SOMETHING".

6. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

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QTE EXCELLENCY: I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S LETTER DATED JULY 28, 1974, CONCERNING THE CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN OF ITS POSITION ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO USE FACILITIES IN BAHRAIN UNDER THE TERMS CONTAINED IN THE AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 23, 1971, BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND TO YOUR LETTERS OF JULY 31, 1975 INDICATING CONCLUSION IN A MANNER SATISFACTORY TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS OF THE RECENT

NEGOTIATIONS ON CERTAIN ISSUES RELATED TO U.S. NAVY'S PRESENCE
IN BAHRAIN.

QTE IN THIS CONNECTION, I WISH TO STATE THAT, IN THE LIGHT
OF DETAILED DISCUSSIONS, AND CONSIDERATION OVER THE LAST SIX
MONTHS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN, ABOUT ITS POSITION
REGARDING THE CONTINUED PRESENCE, IN THE FUTURE, OF THE U.S.
NAVY'S MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF
THE AFOREMENTIONED AGREEMENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN HAS
FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

QTE IN VIEW OF THE PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA,
IT WOULD BE BOTH BENEFICIAL AND EXPEDIENT TO TAKE THE NECESSARY
STEPS TO RELINQUISH AND EVENTUALLY DISCONTINUE THE PRESENCE OF
THE U.S. NAVY'S MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN ON AND AFTER
JUNE 30, 1977. ACCORDINGLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN HAS
DECIDED THAT THE AGREEMENT EFFECTED ON DECEMBER 23, 1971,
BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
U.S. NAVY TO USE FACILITIES IN BAHRAIN SHALL BE FINALLY
TERMINATED ON AND AFTER JUNE 30, 1977.

QTE IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT OF
DECEMBER 23, 1971, ON THE AFOREMENTIONED DATE SHALL IN NO WAY
AFFECT THE RESPECTIVE RIGHT OF EITHER PARTY, UNDER THE
PROVISIONS OF THE SAID AGREEMENT, TO REQUEST ITS TERMINATION
WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD WHICH MAY BE EFFECTED BEFORE
JUNE 30, 1977.

QTE MEANWHILE, I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO YOUR
EXCELLENCY MY GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN
OUR TWO COUNTRIES AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF
1971, WILL CONTINUE, AS IN THE PAST, TO BE GOVERNED BY A SPIRIT
OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP, UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

QTE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, STATE OF BAHRAIN UNQTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANAMA00948
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750278-0587
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750861/aaaacbjj.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANAMA 909
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : MIDDLE EAST FORCE STATUS
TAGS: MARR, BA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006